

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 26, 1881

Copy Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont. Can. Jan. 26th. 1881. My dear Alex.

Your letter quite frightened me — fearing from its contents you might have some tendency to heart disease — but your Aunt Ellen said — in that case he would not feel it. “This is the result of irregular hours and irregular meals. I have had it myself more than once — I also have had something like it from indigestion! Therefore I echo Papa's words on the subject and add — It is in your own power to keep yourself in good health. You have plenty of determination in your character — determine to do this and keep us all free from anxiety. Your Aunt is already packing up and expects to be away in about a fortnight.

I like your plan with regard to a locality for us very much — but I am not sure that it would be wise for us to purchase. We might not be able to sell this place for awhile — and it would be necessary to withdraw our investments from this country — and invest elsewhere. However I leave everything to be settled between Papa and you. It will matter everything to me for us to be near each other. If we do move it should be to a house without much ground and easy of access by train or horse cars. I do not think I have anything to suggest more than your Father has already said.

Carrie was here yesterday — quite well but distressed — by the fear of our going away.

I hope Mabel is becoming more settled in her new abode — I am sure she cannot possibly want visitors just yet. Give our fond love to her and the darlings.

We have got the oil paintings down from the walls in the town house — and have them here to pack up, but Papa says — wait for a little before sending them. We might have something of our own to send with them. Lilly told me the pictures are original paintings of

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Rogers the Royal Academician. I admire the painting the more the nearer I examine it, but I do not see the name anywhere.

Good-bye my dear boy — here is the messenger for post waiting.

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.